

# Hartford Elementary News

## Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert was held on Monday, December 3rd. Thank you to all the students and Ms. Hoff for a wonderful time!



## January Events:

- Thursday, January 3 - Return to School
- Tuesday, January 8 - Bookmobile
- Tuesday, January 8 - PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm - HS Library
- Wednesday, January 9 - Report Cards Go Home
- Friday, January 11 - Sanford Health Fair (PM)
- Monday, January 14 - School Board Meeting @ 5:30
- Tuesday, January 15 - Literacy Night with Trojan Buck Store
- Monday, January 21 - No School for Teacher Inservice
- Tuesday, January 22 - Tyler Tuesday
- Friday, January 25 - PTA Movie Night @ the HS auditorium
- Tuesday, January 29 - Bookmobile



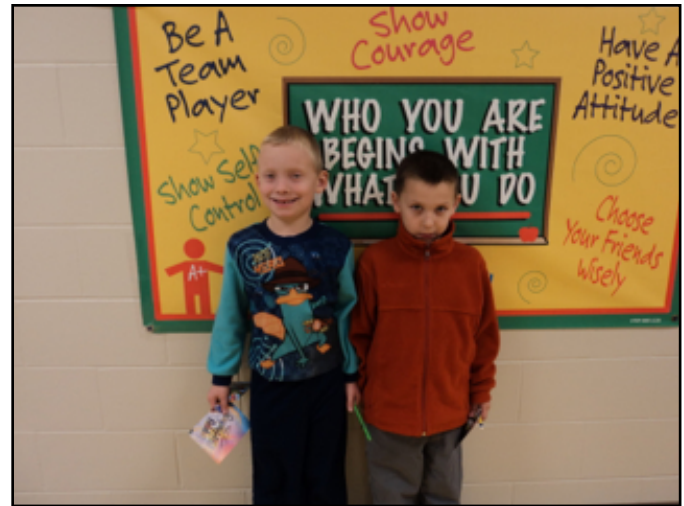
## THE DECEMBER BIRTHDAY BASH

The December Birthday Bash was held on Wednesday, December 5th. Mrs. Tyler read the book, Happy Birthday to You! by Dr. Seuss. Each child received a pencil, a birthday card, a Trojan Buck, and a fruit snack. Happy birthday to all the December birthdays!



### December First Grade Birthdays

Eliot (12-6), Taylor (12-5), Levi (12-7), Megan (12-8) and Gabe (12-28)



### December Kindergarten Birthdays

Ethan (12-17) and Thomas (12-21)



### December Second Grade Birthdays

Anna (12-11), Emma (12-31), Kandice (12-2), Dylan (12-30), and Peter (12-29)

## TYLER TUESDAY

Tuesday, January 22nd

For all January & June Birthdays!

Call Pam @ 528-3215 to register!





*Nurse's Notes by Rachel Sebr, School Nurse*

We will be doing something new this year as part of our school health promotion. The Sanford Center for Health and Well-being will be spending half a day in each elementary discussing things such as poison, stranger, and smoking dangers. They will also discuss 911 appropriateness and will be setting up the AmeriHeart. This is an inflatable the students can walk through and learn about all the different parts of the heart. Hopefully, this will be a fun experience for the kids while at the same time, being educational.

PTA Meeting  
Tuesday,  
January 8th  
HS Library  
7:00 pm



Thank you!

Sometimes good things come in small packages. Jacob Hellvig, a student in 2nd grade, wanted to raise some money for our school. He did this through the local farmer's market. After the concert, he presented Principal Tyler with \$100 to use for some indoor recess stacking cups. The school was able to purchase many sets of these "speed stackers." Thanks again to Jacob and his donation!



## PTA NEWS

### Upcoming Events

Friday, January 25th - Family Movie @ the HS Auditorium "All Dogs go to Heaven"

### Special Fundraising Projects for 2012-2013

1. Reduce school supply list by providing **ALL** notebooks and folders for the 2013-2014 school year.
2. Provide shin guards and soccer nets for the Humboldt and Hartford Elementary play grounds.

PTA annual membership is \$5.00. This year, members who activate their card will receive \$10.00 off a \$50.00 purchase at Office Max! Drop off your membership dues - along with a sheet of paper with your name, address, phone number, email address, and employer - at the school office or with your school's PTA representative. Please feel free to email us at: [ptawestcentral@gmail.com](mailto:ptawestcentral@gmail.com) for any suggestions or comments or visit our website at <http://facebook.com/groups/PTAWestCentral>. We would love to hear from you!



**West Central PTA Presents**  
**All Dogs Go To Heaven**

**Where:** High School Auditorium  
**DATE:** Friday Jan 25, 2013  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM  
**COST:** \$1.00 per person

**Concession Stands Open!**  
Popcorn \$0.50  
Water \$1.00  
Candy Bars \$1.00

All Dogs go to Heaven © 1989 GOLDCREST and Sullivan Limited.

## **Kindergarten Options at West Central**

West Central School District offers several options for children of kindergarten age. Children who turn five years old on or before September 1, 2013 are eligible to enter kindergarten in the fall of 2013.

**Junior Kindergarten** is offered for children who turn five by September 1<sup>st</sup>, but need more time to mature (either socially or academically). The junior kindergarten program is half days of school, five days a week at WC Hartford Elementary. Students attend in the morning and transportation is provided within the district at mid-day. Children who attend junior kindergarten will attend regular kindergarten the following year.

**All day every day kindergarten** is offered to all kindergarten students at West Central. There are currently 4 sections of kindergarten in the WC Hartford Elementary, and 1 section of junior kindergarten. There is one section of kindergarten at the WC Humboldt Elementary School.

## **Kindergarten Call-In Registration/Screening Appointments**

Parents are asked to call Pam at 528-3215 by February 1<sup>st</sup> to register their child and schedule an appointment for a screening time. The screening will take place on March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Humboldt Elementary with times available between 4:00 and 7:00 PM, and March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hartford Elementary with times available between 8:00 AM – 7:00 PM. All prospective kindergarten students **MUST** be screened. It is very important that families register by February 1<sup>st</sup> so West Central School District can appropriately plan for the upcoming kindergarten classes.

## **Kindergarten Screening**

West Central will hold kindergarten screening on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 7:00 P.M. at WC Humboldt Elementary and Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M. at WC Hartford Elementary. The West Central School District requires that all kindergarten-eligible children (who turn 5 on or before September 1, 2013) are screened! *Please plan on attending this event!*

Appointment times start every half hour. The screening takes about one hour to complete. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to choose the day and location that works best with their schedule. Please remember that the screening location of Hartford or Humboldt does not determine the school placement.

Parents/Guardians and children should plan to attend the screening together. The children will be screened by the kindergarten staff while parents complete registration forms and necessary enrollment information. Parents need to bring a **certified copy** of their child's birth certificate (state law).

If it is not possible for a family to attend on March 19<sup>th</sup> or March 21<sup>st</sup>, parents/guardians should call the school to complete the screening another time. An alternative screening day will be arranged.

## **No School for Kindergarten**

There will be NO SCHOOL for junior kindergarten and kindergarten students on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> due to kindergarten screenings/meetings! All kindergarten staff will be involved in screening and planning for next year's kindergarten class.



## LITERACY NIGHT - TUESDAY, JANUARY 15TH

Are you looking for a way to see what your child does in school and meet other parents? Join us for a night of relaxed reading with your child. Sign up sheets will be sent home after Christmas break.

- We begin the evening with **pizza** for those who are running from work to school and need to catch a bite to eat. It's a good chance to sit down with your child's classmates and families and share experiences; **5:30 - 6:30** in the elementary lunchroom/gym.
- You will be able to **read** with your child in your child's classroom, the library, or any hallway space available any time from **6:00 - 7:30**. Come when it works for you!
- After reading your book(s), you will be able to watch your child take an Accelerated Reader test, as well as shop at the Trojan Buck Store (on our stage in the gym). The store is staffed by our local PTA volunteers. Tests can be taken in the classrooms or the computer lab.
- We will end the evening at 7:30.
- Childcare will be provided for those children under 5.



Above: Pizza for a hungry crowd.

Below: A first grade student reads to his dad.



To the left: Students and parents shop at the Trojan Buck Store.



## Talking with Kids About Sandy Hook by Charles Fay of Love & Logic

Our hearts ache over the Sandy Hook tragedy! When such evil is committed, we wonder, "How do we talk to our kids about this? What do we say?" Children have an incredible capacity for strength, and we can help them cope by following some practical guidelines:

### **#1: Be honest about your emotions while modeling strength.**

Our children will cope only as well as we do. Children who see their parents overwhelmed with anxiety, fear, and grief also will become overwhelmed. On the other hand, kids will not have an opportunity to learn healthy expression of feelings if parents stuff their feelings inside.

The key is being honest about your emotions while showing that your family remains strong. For example, you might give your child a hug and say:

*This is a very sad thing. Sometimes I feel like crying about it. It also makes me mad. But I know that we will be okay... because we are strong!*

### **#2: Limit your child's exposure to media coverage of the event.**

Turn the television and radio off when your kids are in the room. Repeated exposure to the visual and spoken images of the tragedy will create more anxiety and fear. Younger children who don't understand that the scenes are being replayed often believe the actual events keep happening over and over.

### **#3: Give them the facts about the event.**

Don't try to keep the tragedy a secret! First, it's simply impossible to do. Second, humans create information when they lack it. When children get bits and pieces of bad news, they "fill in the blanks" with their imagination. Typically their fears, or rumors that float about at school, produce more anxiety than the truth.

Children, even as young as two years old, may need you to lay out the facts about the event. Tell them the basics, while leaving out the more sensitive details. Remember, your tone of voice must communicate compassion and strength.

### **#4: Listen, listen, listen.**

There is nothing more powerful than an open ear, heartfelt understanding, and a warm hug.

### **#5: Let them know that they are safe.**

Our children need to hear about the thousands and thousands of wonderful people who are working day and night to keep us safe. Despite any fears or doubts we may have, our kids need to hear that they are safe.

Make your reassurance short and to the point. When parents spend too much time, too many words, and too many emotions trying to reassure kids that they are safe, it backfires. Your message will be more powerful and believable if it is very brief and business-like:

*There are thousands of people working to keep everyone safe. We are going to be okay. Have a good day at school. I love you.*

### **#6: To the greatest extent possible, maintain daily routines.**

Daily routines give all of us a sense of predictability, control, and safety. When we stick with them, we also communicate to our youngsters that we are strong enough to keep going... and they are too.

### **#7: Involve them in helping others.**

There are few things more therapeutic than helping others. Even actions that may seem small, such as writing letters of support or sending a box of food to rescue workers, can mean a great deal.

## REFLECTIONS....



This is a hard one. Unless you have no radio or TV, you've heard the horrific news from Connecticut. They were just babies.

I wonder at what point does someone hate life and others so much that they resort to such an unthinkable action. Was he bullied? Teased? Did he have such awful school memories that this could somehow right a wrong done to him? Or did the mental illness that he had just take any sense of right and wrong out of him?

Of course we'll have no answers. This senseless act has left not only Connecticut, but the world a sadder place to live; school a little scarier for students and teachers; and parents and families holding their babies a little closer each night.

It makes me angry that we're talking about more security in our schools. We need more teachers in the building, not more police. It seems each year we struggle with what has to be cut in order to maintain the current budget and still give our kids a quality education. And now, that education includes assuring students that this IS a safe place.

Yes, we will continue our lock-down drills that secure the students in the locked classrooms away from the door and as safe as we can make them (just like they did in Connecticut). Yes, we will question anyone without a visitor sticker. Yes, we will continue to keep alert and sensitive to potential threats to our students. But we will also assure students on a daily basis that they are loved here. They are safe here. They matter to us here. They are your babies.

They are ours.

Give your child an extra hug from me. I know I'll be giving my children extra hugs when they're home this Christmas.

- Mrs. Tyler



### Box Tops for Education

Just clip, put in a baggie and return to school! There is also a drop box at Sunshine.



### Save Five for Schools

Just wash these milk and juice lids and send to school in a baggie (or Sunshine). Watch for store specials! We need the WHOLE lid!



### Labels for Education

This is not just Campbell's Soup Labels anymore! There are many products that qualify. Check it out at [labelsforeducation.com](http://labelsforeducation.com). You can send labels to school with your child or drop in box @ Sunshine.

### Cell Phones/Ink Cartridges

You can drop off old cell phones or ink cartridges and we can recycle and get money back. There is a box inside our front door.